

AGENDA: October 8, 2002

7.2

CATEGORY: Items Initiated by Council

DEPT.: City Council

TITLE: Position of Support—Measure H: Parcel Tax, Los Altos School District

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a position in support of Measure H: Parcel Tax, Los Altos School District.
2. Authorize the Mayor to send letters of support to appropriate legislators and organizations.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City with the approval of the above-listed recommendations.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Measure H proposes to increase the existing parcel tax by \$333 per year for each parcel in the district. The proceeds of the tax would be used to maintain reduced class size; support small neighborhood schools; hire and retain high-quality teachers; fund school libraries; provide student educational materials; retain music, language and computer classes in the junior high schools; and balance the district's educational program.

This measure also requires voter approval to increase the spending limits of the district.

Impact of Funds

Measure H will make teacher salaries more competitive with surrounding districts; keep science labs updated; provide qualified science teachers; protect junior high electives like music, foreign language and computers; and preserve small class sizes.

CONCLUSION

If enacted, Measure H would authorize a qualified special tax on parcels within the Los Altos School District and increase the district's present appropriation limit for four years.

Measure H has received support from a number of organizations and individuals. Notably, Measure H has been endorsed by AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization), Region 43;

AGENDA: October 8, 2002

PAGE: 2

California Assemblyman Joe Simitian; Congresswoman Anna Eshoo; Los Altos Chamber of Commerce; Los Altos City Council; Los Altos Community Foundation; Los Altos Cultural Association; Los Altos Education Foundation; Los Altos Senior Center; Los Altos Teachers Association (LATA); Los Altos-Mountain View PTA Council; PTA—Almond; PTA—Blach; PTA—Egan; PTA—Loyola; PTA—Oak; PTA—Springer/Covington; PTSA—Los Altos High School; PTSA—Mountain View High School; Rotary Club of Los Altos; Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss; Silicon Valley Realtors and Homeowners (PAC) (SILVAR); and SOS—Save Our Staff Campaign.

Therefore, I am recommending that the Council adopt a position in support of Measure H.

Copies of the full text of and arguments for and against Measure H are attached for reference.

PUBLIC NOTICING—Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Mary Lou Zoglin
Councilmember

MLZ/WW/5/CAM
429-10-08-02M^

Attachment: 1. Text of and Arguments For and Against Measure H